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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/874,098	06/04/2001	Wei William Wu	5043P010	6034
8791	7590	05/10/2005	EXAMINER	
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD SEVENTH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030			SAM, PHIRIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2661	

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/874,098	Applicant(s) WU ET AL.	
	Examiner Phirin Sam	Art Unit 2661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.



Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>030105</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The limitation, "ASIC" of claim 9 is not disclosed in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,608,836 hereinafter referred as "Mao".

Mao discloses the invention (**claim 1**) as claimed including a method comprising:

- (a) fixing a logical identifier for a signal line at an egress interface (see Fig. 4, elements 422, 423, 450, and 410, col. 5, lines 49-51, wherein APS 422 and configuration 423 establish a unique

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logical identification (LID) for each egress STS-1 signal transported through each line of the node);

(b) mapping a first physical identifier for a first physical signal line to the logical identifier (see Figs. 4 and 5, elements 422, 423, 450, and 411, col. 5, lines 52-56, 60-67, and col. 6, lines 55-63, wherein APS 422 and configuration 423 correlate physical identification (PID) to logical identification (LID) of STS-1 signal to each signal line);

(c) remapping a second physical identifier for a second physical signal line to the logical identifier responsive to a line failure on the first physical signal line (see Figs. 6 and 7, col. 8, lines 15-60, col. 9, lines 31-67, and col. 10, lines 1-3).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Mao discloses mapping comprises writing to a cross connect table and wherein remapping comprises rewriting the cross connect table (see Fig. 6, col. 8, lines 23-52).

Regarding claim 4, Mao discloses wherein fixing comprises:

(a) assigning an identifier to each port of the egress interface during initialization (see Fig. 4, elements 422, 423, and 411, col. 4, lines 40-49);

(b) preventing change to the identifier after initialization (see Fig. 4, elements 422, 423, and 411, col. 4, lines 40-65, wherein when ID is assigned to each port or line, it stays there until APS 422 and configuration 423 reconfigure this PID. Otherwise, it will not change by itself after initialization).

Regarding claim 5, Mao discloses the signal line is a synchronous-optical networking (SONET) lines (see Fig. 4, col. 4, lines 17-28).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,959,996 hereinafter referred as "Byers" in view of US Patent 6,608,836 hereinafter referred as "Mao".

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Byers discloses an apparatus comprising:

- (a) a bus interface (see Figs. 1 and 2, element 28, col. 3, lines 50-52);
- (b) an egress time slot interchange (ETSI) module (see Figs. 1 and 2, elements 32 or 232, col. 3, lines 39-42, 46-49);
- (c) a switch fabric coupled to the ETSI module (see Fig. 1, elements 30 and 32, col. 2, lines 18-21);

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(d) an egress time slot interchange (ETS) module having a plurality of inputs (see Fig. 2, elements 28 and 232, col. 3, lines 52-58);

Byers does not disclose a translation module to translate an incoming signal identifier to one of the logical identifiers independent of a physical line on which the signal is received and each input assigned a logical identifier which remains fixed after initialization. However, Moa discloses the translation module (see Fig. 4, elements 405, 422, and 423) to translate an incoming signal identifier to one of the logical identifiers independent of a physical line on which the signal is received and each input assigned a logical identifier which remains fixed after initialization (see Fig. 4, elements 405, 422, 423, and 411, col. 4, lines 40-65, col. 5, lines 42-67, wherein the LID which assigned each STS-1 signal will remains fixed after initialization). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the translation module to translate an incoming signal identifier to one of the logical identifiers independent of a physical line on which the signal is received and each input assigned a logical identifier which remains fixed after initialization teaching by Mao with Byers. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide to select and correlate the signal to logical label for transmission read on abstract. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mao and Byers to obtain the invention as specified in the claims 6 and 7.

Regarding claim 8, Byers does not disclose a termination module, O/E, and E/O converter. However, Mao discloses the termination module (see Fig. 8, element 843, col. 4, lines 29-39, and col. 10, lines 13-27). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the termination module and the O/E and E/O converter teaching by Mao with Byers. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide

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to configure IP routing, switching, and convert the signal into proper form for transmission read on column 10, lines 18-19. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Mao and Byers to obtain the invention as specified in the claim 8.

8. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,959,996 hereinafter referred as "Byers" in view of US Patent 6,608,836 hereinafter referred as "Mao" as applied to claim above, and further in view of US Patent 6,687,247 hereinafter referred as "Wilford".

Regarding claim 9, Mao and Byers do not disclose an ASIC on a backplane of a line card. However, Wilford discloses the ASIC (see Figs. 7-9, col. 11, lines 23-58). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the ASIC teaching by Wilford with Mao and Byers. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide to do a specific function, for example, packet buffering control, rate limiting, queue management, etc., read on column 11, lines 23-36. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Wilford with Moa and Byers to obtain the invention as specified in the claim 9.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent 6,498,794 (Tsukamoto et al) discloses transmitter with cell switching function.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phirin Sam whose telephone number is (571) 272-3082. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272 - 3126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 2, 2005

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Phirin Sam', written over a horizontal line.

**PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**